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Town Meeting is Saturday

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – On Saturday, March 12, voters will weigh in on 18 of the 25 warrant articles that department heads, selectmen and the budget committee have been working on for several months. At this time, the budget is slated as the last article on the warrant.

Article 1, to elect officers, will be dealt with in a secret ballot vote on Tuesday, March 8, and results will be announced Saturday.

The next six articles are zoning amendments put forth by the planning board and they will also be dealt with by secret ballot vote. **Article 2** seeks to amend the ordinance to prohibit residential housing of any type in limited commercial/light industrial zones.

Article 3 seeks to amend the portion of the

ordinance that deals with ownership provisions for conservation areas. It would clarify the options for ownership of conservation areas created by subdivisions and enable the town to recover incurred costs.

Article 4 would add the sentence “All non-residential construction in the Limited Commercial/Light Industrial Zone shall be required to go before the Chester Planning Board for Site Plan Review” to sections 5.4 and 5.5.

Article 5 would reword Article 10, Administration and Enforcement, to clarify the permitting process there.

Article 6 would amend the chapter on signage to disallow wall signs greater than six square feet and require any lighting on such signs to be downcast per ordinance lighting requirements.

Article 7 changes the Fees for Permits section from following the International

Code and the Building Department budget to following the board of selectmen.

Article 8 is the biggest cost item on the warrant and asks for a \$6 million bond for roadwork. There has been much discussion on the matter leading up to Town Meeting - how much it should be for, which roads it should tackle, etc., and discussion on Saturday is likely to be long.

Article 9 is the general acceptance of reports.

Article 10 is also highway related and asks to enter into a five-year lease for a \$168,485 Class 8 dump truck.

Article 11 would raise \$7,881 for Public Access Cable Television (PACT).

Article 12 seeks to end the town's obligation to the earned time policy previously in use by the police and fire departments. It asks

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Selectmen Consider Cutting Insurance on Historic Buildings

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – In response to an approximate 5 percent increase in the appraised value of town-owned buildings, the board of selectmen will be looking into reducing how much insurance it is carrying on two historic buildings, the Old Meetinghouse and the Train Depot Museum.

This year's property insurance renewal from the New Hampshire Local Government Center (LGC) indicated an increased premium, and selectmen office manager Lynne Blaisdell and administrative assistant Paula Gulla looked into why. After a review of the insured buildings' assessed value, they realized that an

across-the-board 5 percent increase was applied.

That 5 percent - resulting from a “regular desktop update to appraisals for inflation,” according to LGC - totals \$324,946, or a \$210 increase in premium costs.

It's not a large amount, but Blaisdell and Gulla's research led them to realize that a contributing factor is that the town is insuring both the Old Meetinghouse and Depot for a full replacement. Such old buildings may be irreplaceable, they thought, and brought the information to the board.

The Old Meetinghouse is appraised at \$820,000, an increase of \$35,000 over 2011; the Depot is appraised at \$189,000, an increase of \$8,000. The Depot's contents, arguably the most valuable

part, are valued at \$1,000.

At any time the selectmen can lower building value to save on premium, and it was suggested that they do so for the two buildings. It was generally agreed there would be no point in trying to rebuild those structures, should they be destroyed.

Selectman Brenda Copp said there was no way to replace those buildings, and to hold a full insurance policy for them didn't make much sense. She noted that a premium of \$524.80 on the Old Meetinghouse was much too high for a building that wasn't going to be rebuilt.

Selectman Jim Devine speculated that a post and beam constructed building like the Old Meetinghouse

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FAIRGROUNDS The culmination of the Hampstead Public Library Community Spring Read was a Country Fair on Saturday, where families visited goats, dogs and miniature horses; bought and sampled baked goods; visited book and Thrift Shop tables and watched the Hampstead Garden Club members create floral arrangements. Proceeds from the bake sale and the concession stand were donated to the Salem Animal Rescue League. Lilly Daley, left, and Emma Tanguay pet Cinnamon, a miniature horse, on the front lawn of the library.

Photo by Chris Paul

Residents Again Oppose Depot Development Plan

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – A proposed Depot Development plan for a building housing a convenience store, a coffee shop drive-through, and a retail space, along with an eight-pump gas station island, was met with the same resident unhappiness and protest that faced a similar plan a decade ago.

The previous plan was denied by the Planning Board, a vote upheld by Superior Court in a decision delivered March 3, 2003, and based on the Planning Board's reason that, “The scale and scope of the petitioner's proposed site plan would create detrimental effects on the abutters, the neighborhood, and the Town environment.” The Court decision also refer-

enced “serious traffic-related problems including congestion, and safety problems.”

Richie Towne and Bruce Worthen, the co-owners of Depot Development, are now back with a plan they say addresses the issues that caused the previous denial. Their engineer, Mark Gross, presented a conceptual plan of the proposed develop-

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Chester College Asks Selectmen to Help Save School

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER — Students, administration and a trustee from Chester College of New England met with the board of selectmen last week to raise awareness of the potential closing of their school.

Chester College is facing a more than \$500,000 shortfall this coming year, and work is going on to try and save the small liberal arts school. To that end, students met with the board to tell their stories and share why they need all the help they can get.

Chester College began as White Pines College in 1965. It changed its name in 2002 while expanding from a two- to a four-year institution. A private, non-sectarian school, it grants Bachelor of Arts degrees in Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Photography and Media Arts, Creative Writing, Professional Writing, Communication Arts, and Interdisciplinary Arts.

Dean's list student Anna Johnson spoke of the difficult time she had in school before finding a home in Chester. With a high school grade point average under 2.0, she was told she wasn't college material. Then she visited Chester College.

"For the first time in my

life, I found acceptance and friends," said Johnson. "Since then I've grown as an artist and a person...I'm encouraged not only to work on my art but I'm encouraged to think, to explore. That's such a wonderful thing."

Student Becky MacDonald spoke of the inspiring work her peers have been doing to save their school. In just a few days the students raised \$65,000 and proffered suggestions on how the school could save funds. "I'm shocked at how much we're working together, but we can't do it alone," she said.

MacDonald added that she and her fellow students were frequenters of town businesses and were involved in the community. "This isn't just White Pines anymore, this is Chester College," she said.

Beth Ann Miller, former student and current admissions counselor, said that while she was a strong student in high school, until transferring to Chester, she hadn't found an environment in which she was truly comfortable.

"New students are madly in love with this school. These are students with a lot of options, but they're choosing to come to Chester," she said. "There's not a college like this anywhere else."

Former student Chris

Sumner grew up in Hampstead and had a similar story about how coming to Chester College was like finding his home. Sumner will be earning his Master's degree this year from the University of New Hampshire and said he was proud to be a New Hampshire writer, educated in the Granite State.

Dean of Students Byron Petrakis spoke not only of how struck by Chester's beauty he was when he came to the school in 2001, but of how adeptly the college was carrying out the goal of its founder, Faith Preston. Petrakis said it was Preston's goal to create a place to nurture students who struggled in earlier education but showed a spark. Those students interact with stronger students and they learn from each other, Petrakis said.

He noted cuts the school is making and asked the town, in the spirit of shared sacrifice, for help.

Following the meeting with the students, college President Robert Baines and trustee Andrew Hadik spoke. According to Baines, the recession hit the college hard, especially because Chester College is almost a "boutique college" with a small collection of majors and 119 students. With room and board, the cost for a semester approaches \$30,000. "That's a major investment this day and age," said Baines.

"Over the past few years we've been trying to meet the challenges of the economy to bring in the number of students we have, but we have not been successful," said Baines.

Last year trustees allowed an endowment to be used to cover a shortfall, but that money isn't available this year.

Baines said the shortfall was initially \$800,000, but after cost cutting and revenue-generating measures, including a timber harvest and sale of art, that deficit was brought down to about \$600,000. In the best case enrollment scenario, the col-

lege will need approximately \$100,000 to keep afloat.

Baines added that when the deficit information came out, getting new students to enroll became much more difficult.

In 2008 the college's property was appraised at \$6.7 million. Now it's at \$2.7 million. The school has debt of approximately \$2.3 million, said Baines.

"Those are some of the challenges in front of us," said Baines.

Selectman Joseph Hagan, whose house is located between college buildings, spoke in its support.

"There are so many mediocre colleges - too many. And there are so many mediocre students. You're really not that," said Hagan. "I'd hate to lose the college. It's an integral part of our community now."

The board entered into a non-public session with Baines and Hadik to discuss ways to close the deficit. Exiting the session, chair Steph Landau said the board was looking at ways to support the college, and future meetings would bring those efforts to light publicly.

To help Chester College, visit: savechester.marginaliastudios.com/contribute.

Town Meeting

continued from page 1

for \$72,641 for the Employee Separation Benefits Capital Reserve Fund established last year. The money is to be taken from the June 30 fund balance.

Article 13 asks for \$8,000 for the completion of an impact fee methodology study for the police and fire departments.

Article 14 asks for \$20,250 to be placed in the Equipment and Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund, established for the purpose of buying police cruisers.

Article 15 will seek to find out whether voters would like the covered bridge at Wason Pond to be illuminated.

Article 16 wants to add

\$15,000 to the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund in preparation for the next revaluation, scheduled for 2016.

Article 17 seeks to establish a new capital reserve fund, to be used for unanticipated repairs, maintenance and expenses associated with town property. It would add up to \$10,000 from the fund balance.

Articles 18 and 19 seek to discontinue capital reserve funds, the Towle Road Capital Reserve Fund and the Town Hall Restoration Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 20 asks for \$49,945 for the replacement of the Fremont Road culvert, and would authorize the acceptance of a \$29,958 state grant for the purpose.

Article 21 seeks to raise \$45,000 for the purpose of repairing Edwards Mill Dam, as required by the state. The money would go to repairing the concrete walls and establishing a better control valve system.

Article 22 would raise \$41,650 and accept a grant

of \$39,568 for the purpose of purchasing vehicle extrication equipment for the fire department.

Article 23 asks to raise \$25,000 for the Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund to replace fuel lines and fix the parking lots at the municipal building.

Article 24 asks voters to commit \$45,000 to level sports fields at the Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Area. A matching \$45,000 will be provided by Chester Field of Dreams.

And uncharacteristically located at the end of the warrant, **Article 25** is the budget. The budget committee's recommended amount totals \$3,580,921. That sum doesn't include some of the items the board of selectmen recommended, as their number totals \$3,675,049, and it's likely the selectmen will move to amend portions of the budget committee's figure on Saturday.

Town Meeting starts at the Multipurpose Room at 9 a.m. on May 12.

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Candidate Upset at Removal of Campaign Signs from Town Property

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – Candidate for selectman Steve D'Angelo called the state Attorney General on the town after his campaign signs were removed from town property. An angry D'Angelo met with the board of selectmen at its May 3 meeting to demand answers on why those signs were removed.

According to the discussions last Thursday night, D'Angelo confronted town maintenance worker Tony Amato the morning after he removed the signs. While Amato had been carrying out instructions given to him by selectman and maintenance liaison Joe Castricone, the rest of the board, at least according to statements by chair Steph Landau, stood behind the action.

According to a report by Amato, D'Angelo accosted him early on Tuesday morning, May 1, while he and worker Bob Conner were putting away landscaping equipment. Amato said he explained why the signs were removed.

"He responded by telling

me to put them back in an aggressive manner, and I advised him that he could not place campaign signs on town property, while maintaining complete professionalism during this discussion," read Amato. "He responded by threatening to call the police and the Attorney General's office if I did not place them back where they were."

Amato also removed signs belonging to at least one other candidate, Jamison Graham. Graham had no complaints on the matter.

D'Angelo later filed his complaints with the police department and AG's office, according to his own admission.

D'Angelo also read a prepared statement into the record to begin the meeting, outlining concerns that he was not informed that there was an issue prior to the signs being removed.

"No one gave notice that there was a problem with the signs' location. No one stated that the signs were in any way not allowed, nor a reason provided why these campaign signs were any different from the ones I placed in the same exact locations last

year during the school board election," read D'Angelo.

He went on to question whether the selectmen as a whole authorized the removal of the signs or whether the act was unilateral. D'Angelo went on to question why the rules changed, when a new policy was implemented, how state highway property and town property are delineated, and requested selectmen meeting minutes, per the Right to Know law, that indicate a board decision on the matter.

Landau explained to D'Angelo that according to both state law and town ordinance, political signs are not allowed on town property in front of town buildings. He added that while D'Angelo's signs may not have been removed during his bid for school board, the town didn't have authority over school elections.

New Hampshire election law states that "No political advertising shall be placed on or affixed to any public property including highway rights-of-way or private property without the owner's consent...Political advertising placed on or af-

fixed to any public property may be removed by state, city, or town maintenance or law enforcement personnel. Political advertising removed prior to Election Day by state, city, or town maintenance or law enforcement personnel shall be kept for one week at a place designated by the state, city, or town so that the candidate may retrieve the items."

"And as far as the AG is concerned, I've been contacted by the AG's office before. I'm a regular," Landau said.

D'Angelo challenged Castricone as to why he did not return his phone calls on the matter. Castricone said that as soon as the AG's office is called, the entire board should be involved.

D'Angelo denied telling Amato that he was going to

call the AG's office.

Most of the discussion went back and forth between Landau, who has studied law, and D'Angelo, a practicing lawyer. Landau asked not to be deposed at his meeting.

Though D'Angelo admitted that he was aware of the state law governing the placement of signs, he questioned what he saw as selective enforcement.

Landau said no one was picking on D'Angelo.

D'Angelo emphasized his disagreement with what he saw as Castricone's "unilateral" act.

Castricone said that after a problem last election cycle with campaigning at the transfer station, it was decided that this year the matter should be nipped in the bud. He also questioned

why D'Angelo would have placed the signs, or complained, if he were aware of the law that prohibited their placement on town property.

"I'm trying to be fair to everybody," said Castricone, who later in the week asked selectmen candidate Rich LeBlanc to move away from town property while he was campaigning at the transfer station.

D'Angelo asked for his signs back and the board directed Amato to immediately get them after the meeting.

While Landau said that from now on he would personally take down improperly placed campaign signs, he added that he was not trying to make a major problem out of the matter.

"It is a major problem. It really is. Thank you very much," concluded D'Angelo.



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Editorial

Arts on the Line

Silently all around us, businesses fail and shut their doors. The closures disrupt lives, end dreams for a better life, and then everyone moves on. There's no other choice.

It's a little different when a college announces, while welcoming new students for the incoming class of freshmen, that it will close down if it can't bring in more than half a million dollars right away. That's the schizophrenic situation at Chester College of New England, a small, four-year arts school in bucolic Chester.

In the midst of a welcoming website - the official website, with an application for admissions featured prominently - is a "Save Chester College" button. When clicked, the screen starts with "Shame on Baines!" - referring to the college president and former Manchester mayor - and notes that "after a vote of no confidence by students and faculty, Bob Baines is holed up in his office while students and faculty rally outside."

The reference is to a petition signed by every Chester College faculty member, several adjunct faculty, and all but one administrator - a feat in itself. And while Baines left his office to talk with students at the rally, the negative words are unusual to read on an official college website.

Monday's rally took place a few days after college officials, as well as students,

visited the Chester Board of Selectmen to seek help. And that Monday, the Board of Trustees put their full confidence in Baines.

The inconsistency, the lack of information, and the potential to cause major disruption in the lives of Chester College students all beg for a speedy answer.

Yes, arts schools are traditionally poor; yes, private colleges are having difficulties throughout the country because of high tuition, high costs and a faltering economy; and yes, if there's no money to keep the doors open, the college may have to close.

But the timing? This is when most incoming freshmen have sent in their deposits. For those who selected Chester, and possibly turned down other schools and financial aid, the school's closure would be disastrous. For current students, it's wrenching to have to shift focus toward finding a new academic home.

We can't believe the current financial debacle wasn't foreseen months ago, when students' plans could have been made in a less frantic mode.

Alma Mater - which translates roughly to "nourishing mother" or "dear mother" - is a term frequently used to refer to one's college. It implies close ties. Chester College students in the past week have demonstrated the depth of their feeling for their college. They deserve a response - and the facts.

Letters

Time to Go

To the editor:

I read with a great deal of interest the story in the May 3, 2012 issue of the Tri-Town Times about Chester College and their financial difficulties.

As a Chester resident and taxpayer, I will under no circumstances participate in any type or manner of support for this entity. I for one would relish the idea of all of that prime real estate being returned to the tax rolls. The elimination of the strain on town-supplied services, such as Police and Fire Department calls, would be another positive result of the demise of Chester College.

I see the college not as a prestigious addition to the town, but as a burden on the taxpayers of a small town whose primary tax base is homeowners who can ill afford supporting a non-taxpaying giant in the middle of town.

We said farewell to White Pines College, now it's time to say so long to Chester College. It can become another footnote in future volumes of the Town History.

Earle Whitcher
Chester

Response to Letter

To the editor:

Former SAU chair Gregg Hoppa writes that my April 19 letter was full of errors, half truths and insinuations. However, his narrative describing his actions

surrounding the April 9 SAU meeting had the unintended result of proving the accuracy of my statements.

1. "The April 9 special meeting...was scheduled by me, as SAU chair..." Wrong: he was the former SAU chair. The tenure of all school board and SAU officers ends on Election Day. The very next meeting is a reorganization one, presided by the Superintendent, not the previous chair. That's why the first paragraph of SAU Policy BBBH, Organization of SAU, section H - Annual Meeting - prescribes that the Board meet on or after April 1 to reorganize and elect new officers.

2. "... [T]here was no violation of any policy... Special meetings...are covered in section H, paragraph 4...and do not include Board reorganization." Wrong. While his citation for authority to convene a Special Meeting by the SAU chair is correct, that paragraph - fourth in the list of SAU meetings - assumes that an SAU chair has been duly elected. Thus, a violation did occur because the SAU Board a) had not elected a new chair at the time of the April 9 meeting, as explained above, and b) Mr. Hoppa, no longer the chair, had no authority to convene it.

3. "Mr. Mesa-Tejada has time to comb through the current superintendent contract but has no objection to spending \$30K of taxpayers' money." He is almost correct on this non-sequitur. Yes, I did a detailed analysis of the super-

intendent's contract to expose the extravagant monetary terms that previous boards had approved. This SAU Board must rewrite them! Coincidentally, a Timberlane Regional School District Budget Committee member sent a similar analysis via email to the SAU Board prior to the meeting.

As for my not objecting to the \$30K budget for the search, he is wrong. A superintendent change occurs once every 10 years or so and the taxpayers must search for the very best possible candidate, internal or external. \$30K is a small price to pay compared to the six-figure administrators' salaries and benefits that are paid annually by the taxpayers. As it turned out, the actual cost of the search is \$13.9K.

The allocation of that expense is prescribed by RSA194-C:9,I. Neither the SAU Board nor the taxpayers have any say on the matter.

4. "He fails to recognize the investment taxpayers have already made with internal candidates...To not look first at in-house candidates is outright dereliction of duty." Of course, in-house candidates should be included in the search since the goal is to identify the best candidate. If, at the end, the winner is a member of the current staff, so much the better, because there would be no break-in period. Nevertheless, they should compete on equal footing with external candidates and not be given undue advantage.

Jorge Mesa-Tejada
Hampstead

Tri-Town Times welcomes letters on topics of local interest, and prints as many letters as possible. Please e-mail letters to tri-towntimes@nutpub.net. All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification if needed; name and town of residence will be printed. Letters are limited to 500 words. The Tri-Town Times reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content and length, and anonymous letters will not be printed.

Tax Bills Mailed with Wrong Return Address

CHESTER - Five hundred Chester tax bills were sent out by the printer with the wrong tax collector's address on the return envelope. After noticing the printer's mistake, town clerk Barbara Gagnon had the company send out new bills, this time with her address on them.

The incorrect envelopes are emblazoned with the Chesterfield Town Clerk/Tax Collector's address. Anyone who receives one of the incorrect bills should throw it away; a new one is coming.

The corrected bills were set to be mailed out on Tuesday, May 8. There will be a note explaining the discrepancy

in the new bill. The only problem with the bills is the address; the rest of the information is correct, including the amount owed.

Gagnon said the company is sending the correct bills out at no extra charge.

Tax bills are due by July 2, giving plenty of time for taxpayers to pay their bill.



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College Trustees Take Different View from Staff, Students

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – Robert Baines, president of Chester College of New England, is taking the brunt of the disappointment and frustration that students, faculty and staff are feeling at learning recently that their school is in jeopardy of closing from a financial shortfall of about a half million dollars.

While 100 percent of faculty and staff approved a vote of no confidence for Baines on Monday, the college's board of trustees voted the opposite in their own confidence vote, with all trustees putting their faith in Baines.

At the end of April, news came out that the college was looking at a \$500,000 to \$800,000 shortfall. A lot has happened since then. Most positive has been students' efforts at raising that money themselves. After calls for help and a benefit gala over the weekend, the students, with help from faculty and staff, have raised more than \$100,000. The gala alone raised \$15,000, and donations have been impressive.

On Monday, students held a sit-in outside of Baines' office, and though the atmosphere was at times hostile, people driving by showed their support with honks and donations. Taking a break from her work Monday, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services Laura Ives said she was receiving

checks in the mail, including a recent \$10,000 donation.

"It's unbelievable," said Ives, giving all of the credit to the passion of the students for their school.

All but Richard Benoit, Vice President for Operations and Finance, and some adjunct faculty not present, were on board with the no-confidence petition. Both Ives and Dean of Students Byron Petrakis said the vote was a long time coming.

Ives said she had to hold off the community from taking that vote for years in an effort to focus on stability. But the group decided it was time to get their story out.

The letter explaining the vote enumerates problems and frustrations, but topping that list is the sense that communication between Baines and the trustees and the rest of the school has been lacking, and efforts at fundraising to save the school have been non-existent.

Baines has headed the school since 2007.

The letter accuses the president of many failures, including failing to fundraise, to consult with faculty and other stakeholders to create a viable five-year plan, to warn stakeholders of the fiscal emergency in a timely manner, to keep attempts to seek mergers with eight other institutions private, and to undermine confidence in the school in recent weeks.

Trustees, privy to infor-



Robert Baines, president of Chester College, addresses students at a no-confidence rally Monday.

mation that others are unaware of, have a different take. Their own letter begins with commendations for the spirit of faculty, staff and students and goes on to give complete confidence to the president.

"President Robert A. Baines has consistently acted at the direction of the Board of Trustees and only after consultation with it, the accrediting agencies and senior educators in New Hampshire and New England as well as senior management of the College,

including the Vice President for Academic and Student Services, the Vice President for Finance, the Vice President for Admission and Marketing, and the Dean of Students," it reads.

The letter goes on to explain that the college has invested substantial money and effort in recruiting students and hiring staff, including professional admission and marketing personnel, but these efforts have not produced the needed results.

At a recent meeting with

the Chester board of selectmen (see related story page 2), Baines spoke of the challenges the school is facing, the recession not least among them.

The letter states that senior management was routinely informed of the college's uncertain future and defended the need to enter private discussions with eight other institutions.

Ives, however, said attempts to have the entire faculty and staff communicate with Baines and the trustees were "thoroughly discouraged."

Petrakis said the boiling point was reached when it was learned that the trustees and Baines were looking at the mergers. He said it felt less like a merger than a case of "educational identity theft."

He noted that there is no faculty representation on the board of trustees.

"We may not be able to save the school at this late date," said Petrakis, but it was imperative that frustrations be aired.

In an effort to save their school, faculty, staff and students have created a plan to reduce costs. Students have pledged to give up scholar-

ships, and teachers have agreed to work half time and switch to their spouse's health insurance plan. They've agreed to close a residence hall and some teachers have agreed to teach extra classes free or take leaves of absence.

The trustees' letter concludes, "While the Board of Trustees understands the emotional situation in which the College finds itself in a time of uncertainty, the Board has the legal and fiduciary responsibility for the operation and direction of the College. It today has voted its unanimous confidence in President Baines, and affirms that his leadership is consistent with the direction of the board and the best interest of the College and its students."

Petrakis said that when he was dean from 2003 to 2007, there was more direct communication. "It's one of our grievances," he said. "We have the best intentions at heart, but we're not in the loop."

The trustees are set to meet after commencement, which takes place May 12, to weigh their options and potentially decide on the future of the school.

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Police Building Committee Hopes to Find Game Changer

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The Police Station Building Committee is going forward under new leadership, with a focus on finding a game-changing approach to getting the supermajority of votes needed to approve the building.

The committee said few in Hampstead don't recognize the need for a new police station, but acknowledged the major hurdle to overcome is the financial impact of constructing the building. At its previous meeting, the committee decided to stick with the current plan, design, size and configuration, hoping that inflation does not increase costs too much. However, some wondered if this is a self-defeating approach, presenting the same plan that voters defeated.

Chairman Steve Londrigan listed the reasons he

and the committee members have come up with as why residents voted no on the proposed bond issue in March. These will be what the committee will seek to address going forward. The reasons include: vote no on everything, vote no on everything financial, vote no on all police matters, proposed building is too big or too small, current station is adequate, disagree with finance option, disagree with cost, prefer safety complex, concern over use of present station.

Londrigan insisted that a decision must be made on what the town will do with the present station. Selectman liaison Sean Murphy was equally adamant, however, that such a decision can't be made until a new station is approved and operational.

Londrigan asked each member to prioritize the reasons people said they voted no. He also set up

sub-committees for building, communication, alternative funding and alternative energy. But as no quorum was present, no action could be taken.

Londrigan also presented a "Procedure and Guidelines for the Hampstead Police Building Committee's Use of Social Media" and encouraged all members to access social media sites and take action if they find something inaccurate about the proposed station. There was disagreement among the group over whether there should be a single designee who would respond or whether all the members should do so.

The committee was unaware the Town has a Social Media Policy, and Londrigan said he would make sure the committee policy is in compliance.

Selectman Rick Hartung stopped in and asked that consideration be given to his suggestion, aired at last

week's forum on the police station, that a Capital Reserve Fund be started to address financing the construction.

The committee discussed how the proposed station could be made more palatable to the 800-plus voters who voted no, but Londrigan pointed out that even the Library's request

for \$10,000 for the roof replacement Capital Reserve Fund did not receive a supermajority vote.

In other business:

- Fire Capt. Chris Dane and Police Chief Joe Beaudoin have resigned from membership. They will have to submit letters of resignation to the selectmen.

Members present were

Jon Worthen, Jim Stewart, Judy Graham and Londrigan. Murphy attended as liaison from the Board of Selectmen. Dane was present until he told the board of his resignation and then left.

- Al Davis and David Wojichowski attended and both said they were "considering" joining the committee.

A Few Plots Remain in Sandown Community Garden

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – The Community Garden is ready for another year of planting, thanks to work by the Sandown Conservation Commission and volunteers who provided time and expertise to improve the area.

The garden was started in 2010 on a piece of Main Street frontage, past Central School on the way toward Hampstead, in an effort to provide a place for residents without adequate land of their own, or those who wanted to expand their own gardens, to till and plant and harvest. The land was purchased with money from the Land Use Change Tax.

Since then, the garden usually "sells out" at the

start of each year.

This year a new well has been installed on the far side of the field. Lucy and Randy Faxon of Faxon's Artesian Wells and Pumps donated their time, expertise and the well tiles for the project. Lucy Faxon even dowsed the area to find the best spot, and according to reports, she found a good area and the well is filling up.

Director of Public Works Artie Genuardo and his crew performed the well digging and then built it up.

Conservation Commission member Brian Butler installed a hand pump last week.

As a backup precaution, the water buffalo will again be filled and available for gardeners.

On the uphill side, the

land has been tilled and is ready for seeding. Rick Hall donated his time and equipment to till the garden. Larry Cormier donated his plow for the work.

Butler said he appreciated the volunteer help.

Future plans may include moving the driveway entrance to a safer spot. Butler has contacted the state to find out the procedure and to obtain permission to move the entrance. That effort is still in its preliminary stages.

While many of the 20-by-25-foot plots are already signed for - many of them for gardeners returning from last year - a handful are left. Those interested in planting should contact Butler at bbutler@sandowncc.org.



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Amid Complaints, Selectmen Award Bid for Beach Repair

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The Board of Selectmen met in a Special Session to vote on recommendations for bid awards for the phase two drainage work at the Town Beach and for road striping. The local bidders on the Town Beach drainage project were present, and two of the three were not happy.

The town received five bids for the second and final phase of the drainage and improvement of erosion and runoff control at the Town Beach, and three were local Hampstead businesses. Voters approved an article for \$50,000

to complete the project.

The Hampstead bidders, who all attended the special meeting, were Glen Emerson of Ne-San, with a bid of \$48,715; Steve Wentworth of Brantley, low bidder at \$43,400; and Chad Bennett of Craig Bennett Construction, at \$43,900.

The Beach Committee met April 30 to review the bids and decided only two – the low bidder Brantley and Bennett – were reasonable. Member Kim Colbert suggested going with the low bidder, Brantley, but Howie Steadman said there was wisdom in going with Bennett, which did the first phase of the work, thus avoiding any

finger pointing issues if something were to go wrong.

The board voted 3 to 1, with Colbert voting no, to recommend Bennett. Wentworth objected to the results, saying the pattern has been to award the bid to the lowest bidder, which was his company.

Colbert brought the committee recommendation to the selectmen at the Special Session of the board Wednesday evening, May 2, with Wentworth, Emerson and Bennett all in attendance.

Wentworth told the selectmen he was the low bidder and reminded the board that at a previous controversial bid award, it

was said that if the award is given to the same person all the time, there's no need to go out to bid, and the award should be to the low bidder. He said the New Hampshire Local Government Center also said the low bidder should get the award.

Selectwoman Priscilla Lindquist said legal counsel had provided advice to the board that it is not obligated to take the lowest bidder. And Selectman Rick Hartung said the decision should always be made based on what is best for the Town.

Wentworth asked Lindquist to recuse herself because she had done so when Bennett Lawn Care was a

bidder for a Recreation contract, as Bennett did work for her, but the board pointed out the beach bid involves a different company and Bennett Construction does not do any work for Lindquist.

Wentworth called the board unfair and biased, and said it had been unfair in not awarding him a contract four years ago when he was the low bidder. He accused Road Agent Jon Worthen of acting against him because he ran against him for the Road Agent job.

Selectman Chairman Sean Murphy echoed Hartung and said the board does not always award bids to the lowest bidder but

tries to support committee recommendations.

The selectmen voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Beach Committee and award the contract to Bennett, whose bid is \$500 higher than Wentworth's bid.

In other bid business, the town received four bids for striping streets, and Worthen asked the board to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Seal Tech of Londonderry, whose bid is 6.7 cents per foot for the double yellow center line and 3.6 cents per foot for the single white edge line. The board voted unanimously to approve Worthen's recommendation.

Chester Superintendent Rehired for Two More Years

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - The Chester School Board has officially rehired interim superintendent Jim Gaylord for another two years. Earlier this year, the board had agreed to rehire Gaylord, and the superintendent recently signed the document.

According to chair Royal Richardson at the board's Wednesday, May 2, meeting, the contract is basically the

same one under which Gaylord has been working. The salary remains level at \$89,040, the same annual cost in the district's first agreement with Gaylord in 2010. Gaylord works 32 hours per week.

The contract runs until June 30, 2014, at which point, said Richardson, "Jim's sailing off into the sunset, as he made it very, very clear to us."

Both sides thanked each other for a cooperative and

positive working relationship.

At their April meeting, members authorized Chester Academy administration to move forward with several facilities improvement projects. Two of the most expensive projects, the replacement of the fire alarm system and phone system, required bids before the board would give the go-ahead. Though plans were to have those figures in place for review this month, Gaylord told the board that

obtaining those quotes has proven difficult. He said that for both projects, more information has been repeatedly requested from vendors, but he was hoping to have the bids soon.

In other business at the May 2 meeting, which lasted just over an hour:

- The board also reviewed an updated Five Year Technology Plan with director of technology Bill Cav-

anaugh. Technical discussion ensued over cabling between Cavanaugh and board members Mike Romick and Catherine Treanor but little else was discussed. The board had previously reviewed the plan and asked for changes primarily to budget plans.

- Surplus projections remain relatively level, according to financial manager Annmarie Scribner. Last

month, a projection of \$325,740 prompted the board to approve the facilities improvement projects.

This month, according to Scribner, the district is trending at \$283,000 to \$281,000 in surplus. The number takes into account the facilities projects already under way. The unused funds come primarily by way of unexpected tuition savings.

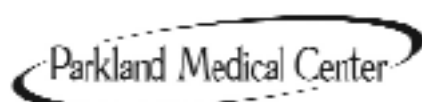


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Hampstead Scout Troop Honors Three Newest Eagle Scouts

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - Three members of Hampstead's Scout Troop 33 have received their Eagle designation at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony held at the Hampstead Congregational Church.

Since 1954, Hampstead's

Troop 33 has honored 66 Eagle Scouts, with Billy Conte, Ryan Guest and Zack Sheltra being numbers 64, 65, and 66. Sheltra is the first Troop 33 Eagle Scout whose father also is an Eagle Scout.

The May 5 ceremony opened with an invocation by former Hampstead Congregational Church Assis-

tant Pastor Bill Ferguson, whose son Andrew earlier received his Eagle Scout as a member of Troop 33. Hampstead's Chris Rogers, another Eagle Scout and recent college graduate, detailed the stages and learning experiences the Scouts had to achieve on their pathway to Eagle.

Conrad Cascaden, who

was the 33rd Eagle Scout designated by the troop, presented the Eagle Charge to the three young men. Scout Leader Bill Guest, the father of Ryan Guest, spoke about all three young men as they made their way through the Scouting ranks.

The three young men received letters of commendation, individual plaques from Pinkerton Academy and a framed Certificate of Merit from the Hampstead Board of Selectmen presented by Rick Hartung and Priscilla Lindquist, who thanked the boys for their service to their community. The boys also received certificates from the U.S. Submarine Veterans of Portsmouth.

For his Eagle projects, Conte built a bridge at the Cambridge Road Conservation area, which Hampstead Conservation Commission



Zach Sheltra, Ryan Guest and Billy Conte, taking the Eagle Scout oath, were honored at an Eagle Court of Honor last weekend.
Photo by Penny Williams

Chairman Tim Lovell said should be the model for any future bridges built in the Town's Conservation areas. Sheltra's project was the collection of clothing for Brentwood, Exeter and Hampstead. He collected and delivered 40 boxes and

20 trash bags filled with clothing and shoes. Guest designed and blazed a new trail at the Page Lane Conservation Area, and cleared it, making it useable year round.

A celebratory meal followed the ceremony.

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Insurance

continued from page 1

would be less expensive to rebuild than the balloon-framed Depot, but he wasn't ready to speculate any further.

"We would need to bring in a specialist," he said, to determine how much the town should insure the buildings. "You'd want to balance the premium for a full replacement with the cost of repairs."

Chair Steve Brown said he would not feel comfortable in making a decision

without representation from those who know the structures best, the Old Meeting-house Historical Association and the Historical Society.

The board agreed that representation from those buildings should be invited to a future meeting to discuss the matter.

In other business at Monday night's meeting:

• A summer schedule was decided on, with the board to meet every other week beginning the week after Memorial Day, until Aug. 13. Traditionally the

board moves from an every week meeting schedule to an every other week schedule for the summer months.

• Ron Dulong was again reappointed to the recreation commission for a three-year term. He has served in excess of 12 years and selectmen lauded his dedication.

• Selectmen reminded residents that tax bills have been mailed. The bills were sent out on May 7 and are due back to the tax collector's office by July 2.

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Don and Jackie Brown are Chester's Man of Woman of Year

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – This year's Lions Club "Man and Woman of the Year" awards went to a couple who give back to their town in large part because of how welcoming their neighbors were when they moved in.

Jackie and Don Brown were recognized last week at the Lions Club's annual Senior Banquet. Neither had any idea they were going to receive the awards, and after their names were read, they both stood and kissed, and Jackie couldn't help herself from getting a little emotional about the scene.

They've lived in town for just five years, moving from Hampstead, and while both conceded that there were many deserving residents for the awards, they were grateful to have been recognized, especially after such a relatively short tenure.

Jackie and Don are busy if nothing else. They've not only got a long list of mem-

berships in town groups, but they've spearheaded some big volunteer projects. Those scarecrows that populate more and more front yards each autumn? That's the work of the Browns. Historical Society programs at Stevens Memorial Hall? A lot of that is by their effort. New display cabinets at Stevens Hall to share all of the many town treasures the society owns? The Browns as well. And the list goes on.

They're a team, they both said.

Jackie is often the idea, woman and Don is the workhorse that keeps projects moving. But not always.

While Jackie came up with the idea for the scarecrows and painted the faces, Don built the bodies. Don contacts the New Hampshire Humanities Council for programming. Jackie makes up the posters and does press releases. Don is the current chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, but Jackie is kind of like his secretary, she joked.



Don and Jackie Brown are this year's Chester Lions Club Man and Woman of the Year. *Courtesy photo*

They have received community help for all of these things, and they're the first to name those who also give of their time.

Jackie said Don often does behind the scenes projects. After revered town resident

fallen on tough times.

Jackie and Don have also helped build up the membership of the historical society. They visit those affected by residential fires and organize meals and support. And they regularly volunteer at the Sunshine Soup Kitchen in Derry.

Both are active members of the Chester Congregational Baptist Church, which welcomed them into town with open arms. They help with fundraisers and programs at the church, and Don is a member of its Board of Resources and Finance.

Jackie is vice president of the Rockingham Herb Society. She helps out at the Chester Clothes Closet, often bringing her grandson there to learn about the benefits of volunteering, and both she and Don helped obtain hanging racks for the Closet.

"When we moved to this town, we were welcomed by everyone with open arms," said Jackie. "Whether it was

at church dinners, Town Meeting or anywhere, they took us around and introduced us to everyone in the room. We were shocked by it, and this is the reason we started to volunteer. It's because we love these people so much and we wanted to thank them. Chester is about neighbor helping neighbor. It's just the best town."

"We're very comfortable in this town," said Don. "When we moved, we were embraced. It makes you want to do things."

He lauded the many projects in Chester that bring out neighbors to help neighbors and thus build community the old-fashioned way.

He said that while he prefers to stay behind the scenes, it was an honor to be acknowledged for his and Jackie's work.

"We've really enjoyed our time here. We say it all the time, but this was the right move for us," concluded Don.

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Hampstead Medical Staffer Wins State Award

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Immunization has always been a priority for this year's New Hampshire winner of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention Childhood Immunization Champion Award.

Elaine Radzevich, a Certified Medical Assistant and Disease Management Coordinator for Greater Hampstead Family Medicine, PC, has achieved what few others have been able to do - she has brought about a 99 percent success rate in immunization. Her efforts to immunize all New Hampshire residents - young and old - have led to this success. And the first drive-up flu clinic she organized received a 2011 award for the greatest number of patients immunized in the state.

According to the Immunization Program of the Division of Public Health Services at the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, the CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award is a new annual award given jointly by the federal CDC and the CDC Foundation to recognize persons who make a significant contribution toward improving public health through their work in childhood immunization.

With her award, Radzevich becomes the New Hampshire CDC Childhood Immunization Champion.

In addition to her work at the medical practice, Radzevich can often be found at Hampstead Middle School, spreading the word about changes in immunization schedules and how teens can get immunized against HPV (Human Papil-



Dr. Thomas Cammilleri of Greater Hampstead Family Medicine and Elaine Radzevich, Disease Management Coordinator for that medical practice, are pictured.

lomavirus). And at the front desk of the Greater Hampstead Family Medicine clinic, she will frequently listen to whether patients are agreeing to be vaccinated. Whenever she hears a "no," she springs into action and, more often than not, by the

end of the conversation has convinced the patient that immunization is the right choice.

Her approach doesn't stop with patients. She routinely shares her immunization knowledge with the other health care staff at the

clinic where she works, and her effort contributed to Greater Hampstead Family Medicine's receipt of an award last year for giving more adult zoster vaccine than any other center in the region.

Radzevich also participates in monthly conference calls with the New Hampshire Immunization Program and attends its annual conference.

"I have taken immunization programs to local area fire and police departments as well as organizing drive-up flu clinics, and it is all part of reaching out to the community," she said.

"I must say that I am overwhelmed," said Radzevich of the award. "I owe so much both to Dr. Thomas Cammilleri and Connie Cammilleri at Greater Hampstead Family Medicine, who have provided the opportunity for me to work with

their practice for almost eight years."

Before joining the Hampstead clinic, Radzevich spent 20 years working in pediatrics, where she noted that immunization plays a prominent role.

"I think this award is a very important recognition of someone who has shown the importance of immunization at the community level," her employer, Dr. Cammilleri, said. "She has done her work where it counts."

"It is front-line staff such as Ellie who make New Hampshire's state-wide program a success," said state Immunization Program Manager Marcella Bobinsky. "Parents and patients rely on the medical staff to make vaccination recommendations if New Hampshire is to keep vaccine preventable disease at bay. We are all grateful for her hard work."

Pentucket Bank to Donate \$5,000 for Bell Yoke Repair

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – It's looking more likely that come the evening of the Fourth of July, the Old Meeting House's Paul Revere Jr. bell will once more ring out, its former glory restored.

Pentucket Bank has agreed to donate \$5,000 toward the cost of repairs to

make the bell ringing possible.

Bank officials notified Historic District Heritage Commission member Priscilla Lindquist that the donation would be forthcoming, and arrangements have been made for a bank representative to attend the May 14 Board of Selectmen meeting to make the presentation. A public hearing to accept the gift will be scheduled.

At the Heritage Commission meeting Wednesday, May 2, the news of the donation was met with enthusiasm. Member Rob Morris said he and Dave Dupouy, the Sandown craftsman who is working on the bell system, will be going up in the steeple to try and remove some of the hardware from the bell's yoke. Then member Chip

Hastings will try to find new matching hardware for the new yoke.

The old yoke had twisted over time and rendered the bell unsafe to be rung. Dupouy, who now has the appropriate piece of white oak to construct a replacement yoke, is ready to get started but must figure out how to remove the bell from the old yoke and store it

while the new one is built and installed. Morris and Dupouy hope the heavy lifting will coincide with Joe McSwain's work on the steeple's roof and balustrade.

If all goes without a hitch, the commission thinks the work can be finished in time to ring the bell to announce the arrival of the Fourth of July, as has been Hampstead tradition.

In other business, Morris said the pillars at the front of the Hampstead Historical Museum building are in need of attention. He said he will check to see if a member of the Hampstead Historical Society who has done grant applications would be interested in applying for grant money to get this work done.

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Search Begins for Timberlane/Hampstead Superintendent

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

The Timberlane/Hampstead School Administrative Unit (SAU) 55 Board met Friday night in special session to start the search for a new superintendent.

Current superintendent Richard La Salle's last day of work is June 30. He has accepted a position with SERESC – the South Eastern Regional Education Service Center – in Bedford.

The Board encompasses the towns of Hampstead, and the Timberlane district towns of Plaistow, Sandown, Atkinson and Danville. The board has agreed to a contract with NESDEC – the New England School Development Council – for conducting the search for just under \$14,000. The SAU will also be responsible

for search-related costs such as printing, photocopying, telephone, postage, consultant travel expenses and consumable supplies, at a cost of \$4,260 billed in four monthly payments. And the SAU will also have to pay \$365 per each focus group it holds.

SAU Business Manager George Stokinger said the financial situation for the search is “on the edge,” and he has asked for information and direction for handling any shortfall from both the SAU's attorney and the state Department of Revenue Administration. Money is available to cover the known expenses as of now, but if expenses for travel and hotel stays for the final group of candidates should arise, he said there could be a problem.

However, he pointed out that both the Hampstead

and Timberlane Districts have sufficient surplus funds to cover all costs, and explained that he is seeking information only on how to legally handle such a situation, should it arise.

Ken DeBenedictis, NESDEC consultant for the superintendent search, met with the board and said its first order of business was to decide who would be interim superintendent and when that person would start. Board chairman Mike Mascola said the board would meet within the next two weeks to make that decision.

The board also reviewed the search advertisement and brochure developed by the sub-committee of Natalie Gallo, Judy Graham, Kate Delfino and Lori Aubrey, who worked with SAU secretary Catherine Belcher.

The ad states the SAU offers a multi-year contract with “competitive salary and benefits package, commensurate with qualifications and experience.”

The board made it clear it wanted the search effort to be concluded by Sept. 1 but did not establish a start date for La Salle's successor.

The board and DeBenedictis discussed the potential pool of candidates, which he said worried him and which he considers “shallow.” He said the community-wide needs assessment component focus groups should be completed by June 1, with the screening of applications slated to begin June 29 and to be finished by July 11.

The board agreed to finance six focus groups: for the SAU Board, school administrators, teachers and

staff, parents, town leaders, and students. Representatives of all the schools or towns would be included in each respective group. The needs assessment focus groups will each forward a report, and from these will be developed the candidate profile and criteria to be used to screen applications and conduct interviews.

The Screening Committee make-up will be determined at the next board meeting. DeBenedictis said it should include nine to 13 members. He recommended that two members from the SAU Board serve as co-chairs, but it will also include an administrator, town official, public official, senior citizen and parent.

“There needs to be a balance between school and community,” he said of the

process.

He anticipates 80 or more applications to screen, to produce a pool of eight to 10 candidates. Those would be reduced to three to five final candidates, who would be brought in for evaluation and interviews.

DeBenedictis also recommended a public forum for the final candidates so the public could meet them.

The final interviews would be slated for mid-July, with a hiring recommendation to be brought to the board by July 24 and a possible selection date of mid-August. DeBenedictis made it clear that this time line must be flexible.

To handle setting up the focus groups, a committee was formed consisting of Judy Graham, Kate Delfino, Mike Mascola and Jaye Dimando.

Kids Coop Theatre Presents ‘Bye Bye Birdie’ in Derry

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

“Bye Bye Birdie” is an energetic, rock and roll musical that Kids Coop Theatre has made its own, and takes the stage May 18 and 19 at the Derry Opera House on West Broadway.

Through the play's songs, dances, and humorous lines, the musical transports the audience back to a time when poodle skirts were popular, the Ed Sullivan Show was a big hit and Elvis Presley was the rage.

The lively musical is

about adored rock star Conrad Birdie, played by John Rogers of Derry. Aspiring songwriter Albert Peterson, played by Ben Villnave of Danville, is convinced he can make a fortune and persuade his girlfriend, Rosie, played by Stephani Conti of Londonderry, to marry him if he can get Conrad on the Ed Sullivan Show to sing one of the songs he has written. Conrad will also kiss a high school girl goodbye on stage before he leaves for the Army.

Kim MacAfee, played by Chantal Choiniere of Hud-

son, is chosen to receive Conrad's “last kiss” before he departs. Kim's boyfriend, Hugo, played by Ryan Reid of Londonderry, is not happy with this and reacts by running on stage during the kiss and knocking out Birdie on live TV.

The story weaves a tale of young love, scheming adults, and anxious parents through the turbulent few days before heartthrob Birdie is drafted.

The Kids Coop production features a cast of 41 local actors, ages 8 to 18. Maureen Mansfield is direc-

tor, Debby Johnston is musical director and Laura Micklovich is choreographer. Both Johnston and Micklovich are directing for the first time for Kids Coop.

Kids Coop actress Brenna Morgan of Derry said, “It's a fun show with a lot of action and a lot of humor.”

Another young actress, Julia Herron, 11, of Hampstead said, “I've had a blast being in ‘Bye Bye Birdie.’ It's a really fun show.”

The shows will be Friday, May 18, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 19, at both 1 and 7 p.m. at the Derry Opera

House. Tickets are available online at www.kids-cooptheatre.org or at Darin's Music in downtown Derry and at the door before each performance.

Local cast members:

- Hampstead – Noelle Goyette, 9, Hampstead Central School; Julia Herron, 11, Hampstead Middle

School; Alex Herron, 14, Pinkerton Academy; and Katie Herron, 17, Pinkerton Academy

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TRI-TOWN HAPPENINGS

CHESTER

Storytimes

Storytimes at Chester Public Library are Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. They are geared for children ages 3 to 5, and Mr. Tim will read stories and teach crafts. The Library is at 3 Chester St., next to the Post Office. For more information, call 887-3404.

Wason Pond Pounder

The Wason Pond Pounder is Saturday, May 19, at the Wason Pond Conservation Area on Route 102. The fundraiser is a 5K trail run, with obstacles, on the scenic trails at Wason Pond. Start times are every 20 minutes, beginning at 9 a.m., for ages 14 and above, with a Family Wave at noon for ages 8 and above, running with an adult. The Branden Myers Memorial Wave is at 1 p.m., the Fire Department Challenge at 1:40 p.m., and the Police Department Challenge at 2 p.m. Participate as an individual or team and help support the Chester Field of Dreams. Volunteers are also needed. For details, visit www.wasonpondpounder.com or call 867-0132.

Historical Society Museum

The Chester Historical Society's Museum is open every second Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., but will be closed May 12 for Town Meeting. New display cabinets feature historical Chester artifacts. The museum is in Stevens Memorial Hall, 1 Chester St.

Book Discussion

The Chester Public Library Book Group Discussion takes place every third Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room, 3 Chester St. The May 15 discussion is on "The Art of Racing in the Rain" by Garth Stein. Extra copies are available at the Library's front desk for cardholders to borrow. For more information, call the Library at 887-3404.

Stamp Out Hunger

The National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL-CIO) holds its 20th annual food drive on Saturday, May 12. On that day, letter carriers

will pick up non-perishable food as they deliver mail on their postal routes in Derry, Londonderry and Chester. The food will stay in the community. This year marks the association's 20th anniversary of its Stamp Out Hunger national food drive, billed as the largest one-day food collection event in the nation. Residents are asked to leave non-perishable food donations in a bag by their mailbox on May 12 before their letter carrier arrives. It will be picked up delivered to a local food bank. For questions, call Terry Gesel or Bill Brickley at 434-7653.

Democrats Caucus

The Chester Democrats will have a caucus on May 16 at 6 p.m. at the Chester Public Library to elect officers. There is no cost to attend. Any Chester resident registered to vote as a Democrat can vote in the caucus or run for committee officer.

HAMPSTEAD

Boxtop Drive

Hampstead Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) invites the community to join its BoxTops for Education Drive, which provides money to enrich the programs offered to Hampstead Central School and Hampstead Middle School students. Help by clipping boxtops from products and drop them off at collection sites around the community - Hampstead Public Library, Hampstead Central School, and Hampstead Memorial Gym.

Color Pencil Workshop

Area artist and teacher Ann Perkins will teach an art workshop on drawing with color pencils at the Hampstead Public Library on Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring paper and color pencils. The workshop is for adults and for kids ages 13 and up. Sign up at the library's front desk, call the library 329-6411, or email programsHPL@gmail.com.

Swedish Meatballs

A Swedish Meatball Supper will be held Saturday, May

19, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at East Hampstead Union Church, 225 East Main St. (Route 121A), just south of Route 111. The menu includes meatballs, egg noodles, carrots, peas, cranberry sauce, breads, assorted desserts and beverages. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, and no charge for preschoolers. Take-out meals are available, and the church is chair-lift accessible. Dinner proceeds benefit the Operating Fund of this historic church. For more information, call 378-0683.

Special Education Parent Group

On Tuesday, May 15, at 7 p.m. in the Hampstead Middle School library, the Hampstead Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and Hampstead Special Education Parent Group present Renee DeCorpo, HMS psychology intern, in a workshop titled "The Collaborative Problem Solving Approach: A Way to Help Children with Behavioral Challenges." RSVP to info@hampsteadsepg.org if you plan to attend. For more information, visit www.hampsteadsepg.org.

K of C Dinner

The St. Anne's Chapter of Knights of Columbus, Council 9058 will serve a barbecued chicken dinner with potatoes, salad, rolls, beverage and dessert on Saturday, May 12, at St. Anne's Church on Emerson Avenue at 5 p.m. A donation of \$6 for adults and \$3 for children will be accepted.

Books for Breakfast

The Hampstead Public Library continues its Books for Breakfast event series from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturdays, May 12 and May 26. The program is designed to give families more time together. The library will have crafts, books to share, and breakfast foods. Everyone who attends will be entered in a raffle. This program series is made possible by a grant from Target. Books for Breakfast will not meet from June through August, but will resume in September.

Listener Dog

Johnny Claude the listener dog will be at the Hamp-

stead Public Library on Monday, May 14, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. He is a certified therapy dog that loves to listen to kids read, tell stories, or act out a book. Set up a 15-minute session with Johnny Claude by signing up at the library's front desk or calling the library at 329-6411. Adults are also welcome to visit with Johnny Claude.

Red Sox Tickets

Hampstead's Baseball & Softball Association is selling raffle tickets at one for \$10 or three for \$20 for four tickets to the Red Sox vs. Yankees game July 8 in section 165 row MM. The winner will be picked at the end of the association's season. Contact Mike Fairbank at mpmbfairbank@msn.com or 617-462-6827 for tickets. All proceeds from the raffle will go to the improvements at the fields and a new scoreboard at Holiday Lane.

Dogs and Cats

On Wednesday, May 16, at 7 p.m., the Hampstead Public Library hosts the program "Are You Talking to Me? The Language of Dogs & Cats." This review of canine and feline communication will discuss how dogs and cats use scent, vocalization, and body language to relate to each other and to people. The program is sponsored by the University of New Hampshire Speakers Bureau, and the presenter is Dr. Michelle Posage, a veterinarian.

Book Groups

On May 17, at 1 p.m., the Third Thursday Book Group at the Hampstead Public Library will discuss "Room: A Novel" by Emma Donoghue. On Monday, May 21, at 7 p.m., the Nonfiction Book Group; discusses "The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris, 1830-1900" by David McCullough. Copies of the books are available at the library, and newcomers are always welcome to the discussions.

Strawberry Festival

Hampstead Congregational Church, 61 Main St., hosts its annual Strawberry Festival and Craft Fair on Saturday June 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to celebrate summer. Games for children, a plant table, baked goods, a lunch,

and strawberry shortcake are featured, along with almost 30 spaces for crafters. Crafters who wish to be outside must bring their own weather shelter. Crafter applications are available by visiting www.hampsteaducc.org and going to the news section or contacting Kate Thomas at katiebt@comcast.net or 489-8170.

Compost Bins

The Hampstead Recycling and Solid Waste Committee has again obtained compost bins for residents. The compost bins are available at the Town Office at a cost of \$47. For more information, contact Tina Harrington at 329-4100, ext. zero.

Vacation Bible Kickoff

All are invited to the "Gold Rush Gathering" Vacation Bible School (VBS) kickoff event on Saturday, June 2, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Island Pond Baptist Church, 26 North Salem Road. Games, food, and inflatables are featured. VBS is free and will run from June 25 - 29 from 9 a.m. to noon. Visit www.islandpondbc.org or call the church office at 329-5959 for more information.

Church Yard Sale

St. Christopher Episcopal Church's annual Yard Sale is Saturday, May 19, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church, 187 East Road, rain or shine. Household goods, sports equipment, furniture, tools, books, games, toys, clothing, specialty items, and a selection of Christmas decorations will be offered. Donations for the yard sale may be dropped off at the church on Friday, May 18, from 2 to 6:30 p.m., and before 8 a.m. Saturday, May 19. Proceeds will support parish community outreach activities.

SANDOWN

Dividing Perennials

If your perennials are not performing as you would like, it's probably time to divide them. The Sandown Garden Club would like to help. The club is planning its annual Plant Sale for Saturday, June 2. Club members will visit local homes and divide established perennials to sell at their sale. This will not only help residents' gardens, but proceeds from the

plant sale are used by the club for town projects. To have a club member divide your perennials, call Fran Rosenau at 887-5131. The Sandown Garden Club is a member of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc. For more information, visit sandown-gardenclub.org.

Benefit Golf Tourney

A golf tournament to benefit Sandown Babe Ruth baseball will take place at Applehill Golf Course in Kingston on Saturday, May 12, at 8 a.m. Entry fee is \$100. Food and prizes are featured. The tournament is sponsored by Sandown Baseball. All proceeds will benefit Sandown Babe Ruth. For more information, call Kevin Mclean at 303-0686.

Lions Scholarship

The Sandown Lions Club will once again be sponsoring a scholarship award. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior residing in the towns of Sandown or Danville who is involved in some form of community service. Applications and further information can be obtained in the guidance office of Timberlane Regional High School or by contacting Scholarship Project Chairman Kathi Soule at 503 Main St., Sandown, NH 03873. Deadline for applications is May 14.

Counselors-in-Training

Sandown Parks and Recreation is accepting applications for counselor-in-training (CIT) positions. CITs are not employees; they are program participants. CITs can earn community service hours, learn job responsibility and skills, and have fun while learning. All program information, including registration form, can be found on the town website at www.sandown.us and navigating to the Parks and Recreation page. Deadline for CIT applications is May 24. A mandatory orientation will be held for CITs who have submitted their application by the deadline on Monday, June 11, at 6 p.m. A parent or guardian must attend.

Breast Cancer Fundraiser

Dawn Leighton of Sandown, mother of nine and

grandmother of nine, is participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer on May 19 and 20. She is holding a yard sale Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29, from 9 a.m. to dusk both days at 47 Little Mill Road to raise money for the breast cancer fight. Women's clothing and shoes, household goods, antiques and postcards, jewelry, and children's items are featured. All proceeds will go to The Avon Walk. Those

who can't attend but want to make a donation may visit www.avonwalk.org/goto/DMLEIGHTON.

Afternoon Movie

The Sandown Public Library's Afternoon Movie and Social on Monday, May 14, at 1 p.m. is "The Iron Lady."

Adult Book Discussion

On Tuesday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m. the Sandown Public Library's adult book

group, Books & Bites, will discuss "Hands of My Father" by Myron Uhlberg. Copies of the book are available at the library.

Story Hours

Preschoolers are invited on Tuesdays to Busy Bears Story Hours with sessions at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library, taught by Jennifer Dawley, a certified early-childhood instructor who uses stories,

music, sign language, poetry, and crafts to teach creative expression, social skills, listening skills, early literacy, and math skills.

Library Plant, Book Sale

The Friends of the Sandown Public Library holds its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library. Annuals, perennials, vegetable plants, baked goods and books are offered, and

the Friends' new community cookbook, "A Literary Feast," will also be on sale. For more information, call the Library at 887-3428. Proceeds from the sale help to provide equipment, museum passes, and materials for the Sandown Public Library.

Knitting Group

Beginners to advanced knitters are invited to join the weekly knitting group on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at

the Sandown Public Library.

Military Appreciation Month

May is designated as Military Appreciation Month, and the Sandown Public Library features a military display in the exhibit case. As a token of appreciation for service, the library has teamed up with Bean Towne Coffee House and Café in Hampstead to offer a free cup of coffee to service men

continued on page 15

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Happenings

continued from page 13
and women. Stop by the library to receive a gift card.

Genealogy Workshop

On Wednesday, May 16, at 6:30 p.m., the Sandown Public Library hosts a return visit from genealogist Christine Sharborough to teach a class on the newly-released 1940 Census.

Mother's Day

On Saturday, May 12, the Sandown Public Library will host two events for children to prepare to celebrate their mothers on Mother's Day. At 10 a.m., children ages 8 and up can attend "Celebrate Mom" to make their mother a gift. The program features a story about moms, making a vase, and dyeing a flower. Each child should bring a clean, empty bottle or jar to turn into a vase. At 1 p.m., children, ages 5 and older are invited to listen to stories about moms and make a paper flower for their mother.

Rockin' Readers

The Rockin' Readers' Book Club for fourth and fifth graders meets Wednesday, May 16, at 3:30 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library

to share a book of their choice with the group.

Chess Club

Chess Club for all ages and any or no experience meets Thursday, May 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library with chess master Monty Cole.

Holiday Closure

The Sandown Public Library will be closed Saturday, May 26, and Monday, May 28, for Memorial Day.

Dog Registration

Residents with unregistered dogs are reminded that the deadline for registration was April 30. If the dogs aren't registered by the end of May, civil forfeiture fines of \$25 will be assessed beginning June 1. The town is required by state law to enforce the registrations. Licensing fees are: Spayed or Neutered, 6.50; Unaltered, \$9; Citizen over 65, \$2 (for first dog only; Kennel (five or more), \$20. Current rabies certificates must be on file with the town clerk. Register in person or by mail by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Town of Sandown, PO Box 583. Include check made payable to the Town of Sandown.

Fine-Free Month

May is Fine-Free Month at the Sandown Public Library. To encourage residents to return items, all overdue library materials returned in May will have the fines removed. Patrons are encouraged – but not obligated – to “pay” their overdue fines by bringing in non-perishable food to the Library. The food will be collected by staff and given to the Food Pantry. Items needed are: snacks, crackers and cheese, juices, individual beverages, cookies, small boxes of sugar, canned spaghetti, spaghetti sauces, 1-pound canned hams, cans of corned beef, tuna, or chicken, coffee (ground or instant), toilet paper (single or four-packs), tissues, shampoo, shaving cream, and disposable razors.

Phonics Program

The Sandown Lions Club has purchased a Hooked-on-Phonics Classic learn-to-read program, available for loan to any Sandown or Danville resident with a child under 15. The loan period is three months. The loan is free but the Lions request a \$30 cash deposit that will be refunded when

the program is returned. For more information, contact Project Chairman Donna Green at 974-0758. For information about joining the Sandown Lions, contact Fred Soule at 974-0547 or vbalnh@yahoo.com or any Sandown Lion.

REGIONAL Silent Auction

Saturday, May 12, is Region 10's Silent Auction at the Atkinson Country Club. Tickets for a raffle for an all-inclusive private dinner for six, valued at \$1,500, at Searles Castle in Windham, are \$20 each and are limited to 100 tickets. Call 893-1299 for tickets. The winner does not have to be present. Auction tickets are \$30 at the door or \$25 in advance by calling the above phone. Music will be provided by Rob Frye (DJ Frye Guy) of Funtimes DJ Services. All proceeds benefit persons with developmental disabilities or acquired brain disorders served through Region 10.

4-H Fundraiser

The National 4-H Council has launched the spring 4-H Paper Clover Campaign in partnership with Tractor Sup-

ply Company (TSC). The campaign runs now through Sunday, May 13, at Tractor Supply Company in Derry and Brentwood, where people can support 4-H by buying paper clovers for \$1 at checkout. All money raised will be donated to 4-H and will support 4-H youth development program activities in Rockingham County. For more information, contact the Rockingham County 4-H office at 679-5616 or visit bit.ly/RockCty4H.

Free Meals

Free family meals open to the community are offered as follows: May 13, lunch, noon to 1 p.m., Seventh Day Adventist Church; May 17, spaghetti supper, 5 to 6 p.m., West Running Brook Middle School, 1 West Running Brook Lane, Derry, 432-1250; May 19, dinner, 5 to 6:30 p.m., St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 63 East Broadway, Derry, 434-4767; May 20, breakfast, 9 to 10 a.m., Church of the Transfiguration; May 20, lunch, noon to 1 p.m., Seventh Day Adventist Church; May 20, dinner, 5 to 6:30 p.m., Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry, 432-0004; May 25, spaghetti supper, 5 to 6:30 p.m., First

Parish Congregational Church, 47 East Derry Road, Derry, 434-0628; May 27, lunch, noon to 1 p.m., Seventh Day Adventist Church; May 27, dinner, 5 to 6:30 p.m., Church of the Transfiguration.

Frost Farm Reading Series

The Frost Farm's 2012 Hyla Brook Reading Series Season starts Thursday, May 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with a reading by Maudelle Driskell, executive director of The Frost Place in Franconia. The free Reading Series is held at the Robert Frost Farm, 122 Rockingham Road (Route 28), Derry. An Open Mic follows the readings, with audience members invited to share their work. For questions, contact Robert Crawford at bobik9@aol.com or visit www.facebook.com/HylaBrookPoets.

Hyla Brook Poets

The Hyla Brook Poets' monthly writing workshop meets the third Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Frost Farm, 122 Rockingham Road (Route 28), Derry. For questions, contact Robert Crawford at bobik9@aol.com or visit www.facebook.com/HylaBrookPoets.

Development

continued from page 1
ment of the lot, at the intersection of Main Street and Derry Road, at the Planning Board meeting Monday night.

Planning Board Chairman Randy Clark gave Gross the go-ahead to present the plan conceptually, complete with pictures, even though member Bill Weber questioned whether the board could legally hear the proposal because of the denial and court decision. He pointed out that all the safety concerns remain the same or are worse at that intersection, which has been designated a “failed intersection” by the state. He asked that the board get an opinion from its attorney.

Clark said it is possible to correct the issues identified by the court and therefore allowed the conceptual presentation.

Gross said the plan has

been redesigned and made smaller, with the proposed building now one story instead of two, and with more attention paid to placement of the building, buffers and shielding the gas pumps. The building would be 4,800 square feet, a decrease in overall size by 50 percent, Gross said.

However, it later came to light that the footprint has been increased by 400 square feet, with 200 square feet more for the coffee drive-through and 200 square feet more for the retail space. The gas and convenience store would cover 2,400 square feet, and the drive-through and retail spaces each have 1,200 square feet. The building design is of a New England barn.

“The barn design is similar to that used by Fresh Water Farms,” Gross said, showing pictures. In later discussion, several board and audience members said

the amount of roof was not appealing. Gross said the plan “is scaled down from the previous plan and is more attractive and better fits into the neighborhood.”

Gross acknowledged the traffic and safety issues and said the process with working with the state on a traffic study, driveway permits and possible improvements at the intersection is under way.

The residents raised the same list of issues they had raised a decade ago: traffic safety, the failed intersection, reduced residential property values, and not neighborhood friendly.

Abutters Carlos and Shirley Paz spoke in opposition to the proposal, expressing traffic safety concerns, reduced property values and the threat gas pumps may pose to their water well. Shirley Paz said she had a letter from the Rockingham Planning Commission concerning the

failed intersection and the need for signalization. She also said Realtors have given them a ballpark figure of at least a \$30,000 reduction in the value of their property.

Conservation Commission Chairman Tim Lovell said he is opposed to the plan because less than 1,000 feet away is the town's largest aquifer, and the proposed development poses an environmental threat. He said gas pump systems are not fail safe, and the town could suffer irreparable damage to this aquifer

“Should this aquifer become polluted, it would be a disaster,” Lovell said.

Cornelios Balk, an abutter across Derry Road, said the driveway exit onto Derry Road would shine headlights directly into his windows. With his driveway almost directly across from the proposed exit, it would further increase the difficulties he already encounters

leaving his driveway.

The residents also noted concerns about increased all-terrain vehicle (ATV) traffic. Cynthia Neale said the ATV noise is already bad, and if ATV riders could swing up to the proposed coffee drive-through and convenience store, it would increase even more. She too was concerned with loss of property value.

Gross said he was at the meeting to get input, suggestions and ideas from the board and audience, and they would be taken into consideration in modifying the plan. Clark noted the lot is zoned commercial, and as long as a proposal meets zoning requirements, it doesn't matter whether the neighbors like the plan.

Virginia Clark said she had lived at the intersection for 50 years, and while she commended Depot Development for its new design, “it still doesn't belong there,” she said, adding that

school buses stop there.

Janet Rabideaux, an abutter whose property on Derry Road is in Derry, agreed, saying her granddaughter's bus stops there, calling it an accident waiting to happen.

The hearing was continued to June 4.

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